

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parodi et al. "Integrating ObjectBroker and DCE Security" in view of Ossher et al. "Combination of Inheritance Hierachies."

In response to Applicant's argument that Parodi does not disclose the claimed sequence of operations belonging to first, second and third classes, the Examiner asserts that the Parodi reference teaches all the functionality of the cited claims and that the cited elements are methods and the division of the functionality into classes does not affect the elements as currently presented. Further, the Examiner asserts that the structure of the hierarchy is not essential for the functioning of the claimed methods.

Claim 1 is directed to a programming interface "said programming interface being an object-oriented interface and including methods adapted to manage said secured call, wherein said methods belong to one only of the following classes: a first class (ISCC) including methods of initiating said secured call, a second class (ASCC) including methods of accepting said secured call, and a third class (SECC) including methods for bidirectional exchange of messages via said secured call or the secured closure of said call." Therefore, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the classes are an aspect of the claims which should be given due consideration.

Further, an advantage of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention is that it separates into different classes functions which are of different natures and which therefore apply to different roles, each of these roles being exercised by a developed software element. See

specification at page 2, 2nd full paragraph. Therefore, the classes carry an importance to the claimed invention.

Moreover, it would not be obvious to one of skill in the art that the combined references teach the claimed elements. In particular, the cited art does not disclose a class relative to secured call initiation, a class relative to acceptance, and a class relative to messages exchanges. Nothing in the cited art would lead one of skill in the art towards this specific classification.

Further, it is unclear how the Examiner determined that the structure of the hierarchy is not essential for the functioning of the claimed methods. In particular, the Examiner's assertion is contrary to the language of claim 1 which recites "wherein said three classes *are structured in a hierarchy* in which said first and second classes inherit from said third class." The Examiner's response to the Applicant's arguments appear to merely be a result of the Examiner's own opinion and are not based on technical reasoning.

The Examiner has *no legal basis* for failing to give full patentable weight to the express language of the claims. It is the Examiner's duty to establish the prima facie case for anticipation or obviousness, and the Examiner has not fulfilled that duty. If the Examiner is to maintain this rejection, Applicant expects the Examiner to base the rejection on *evidence* in the prior art, and to point out where in the prior art all of the express limitations of the claims are met.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that Ossher teaches classes structured in a hierarchy. However, there is no reason why steps 1-3 and 9 and 10 (classes as cited by the Examiner) of Parodi should be arranged in a hierarchy nor is there any reason why

steps 1-3 or steps 9 and 10 should inherit from the operations described in paragraph 2, as cited by the Examiner. In particular, steps 1-3 and 9 and 10 appear to be sequential and not hierarchical.

Further, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner respond to all of Applicant's arguments. In order to provide a complete application file history and to enhance the clarity of the prosecution history record, where the applicant traverses any rejection, the Examiner should take note of the applicant's argument and answer the substance of it. MPEP 707.07(f). Aspects of the Applicant's arguments as presented in the previously filed amendment are submitted herewith for the Examiner's convenience.

Claim 1

Parodi describes a sequence of operations including 1, 2 and 3 which describe a method invocation in which a client makes a request for a remote operation to ObjectBroker's security subsystem, the ObjectBroker security subsystem in turn invokes a GSS routine in the DCE Security library and the DCE Security Library executes the call, which sets up the security context. The Examiner cites sequence of operations 1, 2 and 3 of Parodi for teaching "a first class including methods of initiating said secured call" as recited in claim 1. However, there is no indication that these sequence of operations belong to a first class. In particular, there is no indication that the sequence of operations in Parodi belong to any kind of class. Furthermore, the mere sequence of operations do not establish a class as would be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The Examiner cites operations 9 and 10 of Parodi, which describe that the security subsystem determines that the message should be handled by the GSS implementation and passes the message there and the DCE Security layer checks the received token and if it is valid, accepts the security context, for teaching the second class of claim 1. However, again, there is no indication that these sequence of operations belong to a particular class. In particular, it appears that operations 1-3 and 9 and 10 belong to a sequence of operations including 16 total operations.

The Examiner cites paragraph 2 on page 46 of Parodi for teaching the third class of claim 1. Paragraph 2, as identified by the Examiner, describes that once a security context is established, it is used in the verification of MAC-sealed messages between the server and the client. Again, there is no indication of a third class, or that a third class includes methods for bidirectional exchange, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, operations 1-3, 9 and 10 (first and second class as cited by the Examiner) describe the interaction of ObjectBroker and the DCE Security Service components in the establishment of a security context (third class as cited by the Examiner). The first and second class cited by the Examiner make up the third class cited by the Examiner. Therefore, methods adapted to manage a secured call do not belong to only one of the first, second or third class.

Assuming that operations 1-3, 9, 10 and paragraph 2 teach a first, second and third class, methods adapted to manage a secured call of a programming interface would not belong to *only one of* the first, second and third class, as recited in claim 1. In particular, operations 4-8 and 11-

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16, which are not of the first, second and third class of Parodi designated by the Examiner, are also possible.

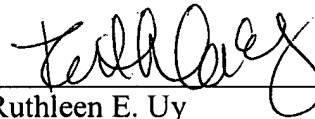
For at least the above reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claim should be deemed allowable. Since claim 3 describes similar elements, claim 3 and its dependent claim should be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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